



2014 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION EVENT

The YOG Qualifiers:

Boys: France, Italy, Russia and Netherlands

Girls: Italy, Israel, Spain, and Netherlands

RESULTS: [U17 boys](#) - [U17 girls](#) - [U15 boys](#) - [U15 girls](#) - [Plus](#)

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312 boys and girls - the highest ever entry for the Techno European Championships!

From the Ukraine to Russia, from Israel to Algeria, from Singapore to Hong Kong, and all over Europe, this event which took place on Lake Garda attracted the largest number of windsurfers in the history of the T293 European Championship, now in its eighth year, with more than 300 athletes aged 13 to 16 years from 27 countries: 134 u-17 boys, 65 u-17 girls, 81 u-15 boys and 19-u15 girls fighting for Championship titles together with 13 competing in the Techno 293 Plus Fleet.



14 year-old **Tom Monnet FRA-320**, 1st in the u15 boys' fleet at the 2012 Techno Worlds in Medemblik then second in Sopot 2013, now competes in the under 17 boys fleet. He totally blew away the competition to take the **u17 boys European Champion** title with a clear 27 point lead over his nearest rival, Alec Herledan FRA-919 and Titouan Le Bosq FRA-719, second and third respectively on the all-French podium.

Tom Arnaux FRA-152 is the **u15 boys European Champion** with almost half the points of his closest rival Geronimo Nores from the USA who was second overall. Leonidas Tsortanidis from Greece and Brit Joshua Carey take second and third European places.

Noy Drihan ISR-620 from Eilat Sailing Club, hosts of the 2013 European Championships, is the **u17 Girls European Champion** with club mate Shoal Ratitzky (ISR-65) in second place on the podium. They are joined by Mariam Sekhposyan RUS-13 from the Baltic Coast in third. Same three girls as on the 2013 Europeans podium but in reverse order.

14 year old **Giorgia Speciale ITA-1**, last year's European Champion and current World Champion, is **u15 Girls European Champion** again. Natalia Arapoglou was second and Lidia Sulikowska (POL-313) was third.



In **Techno 293 Plus** the victory went to Frenchman **Julien Bouyer**, followed by compatriot Olivier Tuhault. Third place on the podium went to Italy's Tommaso Tensi.



An exciting **opening ceremony** on the evening of Easter Sunday began with the flag parade along the lake promenade and through the streets of the historic center of Torbole to formally open the 2014 Techno 293 European Championship, organized by the Circolo Surf Torbole. Local citizens and tourists were invited to a buffet of local products organised in the Club to welcome the athletes and the start of racing.

On **day one** the Ora, typical North Garda wind, rose on time allowing two races to take place on the courses set up by the Circolo Surf Torbole - racing between Ponale (where the race course of the Under-17 was placed) and Torbole, where the Under 15's raced.

The Under-17 boys raced in two groups. Russian Maxim Tokarev headed the ranking, followed by Israeli Yonatan Tzachar and Dutchman Lars van Someren. First in the female ranking was the Israeli Shoval Ravitzky from the Eilat Sailing Club, hosts of the 2013 European Championships.

In the Under 15 girls Giorgia Speciale (Stamura Ancora) got off to a flying start, in first place after two races, followed by the Greek Natalia Arapoglou and by the Italian Alessandra Papitto (Lega Navale Ostia). In the boys u15, after three races the leader was Greek Leonidas Tsortanides, followed by Brit Joshua Carey and French Tom Arnoux.

In the Techno Plus division (athletes over 17 years), after two rounds, there was French supremacy with Ann Claire Girard in the lead, followed by Olivier Tuhault and Julien Bouyer.



On the **second day of racing**, the "Ora" was weak, allowing just one single race for the Under-15 and Under-17 female fleets, and the Techno Plus. The U15 and U17 boys did not finish any valid race.

In the Under 17's women Shoval Ravitzky maintained first place (2,3,3) followed by team mate Noy Drihan (1,4,4). Third place was held by French Lucie Pianazza, and fourth by the Russian Mariam Sekhposyan.

In the Under 15 women, Italian Giorgia Speciale (Stamura-Ancona), u15 Girls Champion at the 2013 Techno 293 Worlds in Poland, continued her winning streak. Another first place kept her at the top of the ranking. In second place was Polish Lidia Sulikowska (3,3,2), followed by the Greek athlete Natalia Arapoglu. A good performance for Alessandra Papitto (Lega Navale Ostia) put her fourth in the ranking (2,4,5,).

In Techno 293 Plus, the French athlete Julien Bouyer was the ranking leader, followed by his compatriot Olivier Tuhault, third place for Tommaso Tensi (Lega Navale Ostia).

Three races were on the program for all divisions **on day three**. The Race Committee announced the first possible warning signal for boys u17 (both groups - yellow and blue) at 08:00 hrs!

The first possible warning signal for girls' u17 was 09:30 hrs, to race with the "Peler". The first possible start for u15 boys and girls & T293 Plus stayed at 12:00 - no change, as the wind was expected to change to "Ora" - the usual afternoon south wind.



The Lake Garda "wind machine" did not disappoint. A double session of races for the Techno293 European Championship: Under 17's started the 3 race morning at 8 am, with the Peler from the north. At 2 pm, with Ora wind from the south, the Under 15 athletes took to the water and had their 3 races, together with Techno Plus.

Russian supremacy in the Under-17 men class with Maxim Tokarev in first place after the fifth race, nine points ahead of French Tom Monnet. In third place was Dutch Lars van Someren, ahead of the Russian Nikita Prozorov.

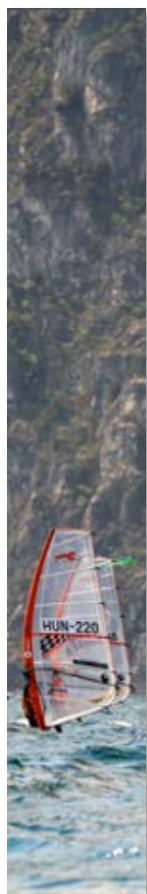
In the female u17 group it was the Israeli athletes taking the lead: Noy Drihan, who today had a first and a second place, continued to battle with compatriot Shoval Ravitzky in second and French Lucie Pianazza in third. The Italian Giorgia Speciale (Stamura) dominated the Under 15 girls, followed by Greek Natalia Arapopolou and Polish Lidia Sulikowska. Very good results for the Italian Alessandra Papitto (Lega Navale Ostia), fourth.

The u15 boys were led by French Tom Arnoux, followed by American Geronimo Nores in full recovery, and the Greek Leonidas Tsortanides.

In the lead in the Techno Plus fleet was Frenchman Julien Bouyer, followed by compatriot Olivier Tuhault. In third place the Italian Tommaso Tensi (Lega Navale Ostia).

Again on **Day Four** the Under 17's would have to wake up very early - the first start for Golden fleet was scheduled for 08:00 to catch the Peler wind. It turned out to be an exceptional day in Torbole when, thanks to the morning Peler wind and the Ora in the afternoon, all the divisions completed three additional races.

A twist at the top in the Under 17 Gold fleet as French Tom Monnet, thanks to a first and a second place in the first two races of the day with the Peler, climbed to the first place on the leaderboard with a 9 point lead over Russian Maxim Tokarev, who had been at the top of the ranking during the early races. In third position was Dutch Lars van Someren, tied in points with the Russian athlete, and thus still in the race to get on the second step of the podium, in the conclusive races of the final day. Again these athletes would take to the water at dawn, to maximise the northern Garda's "wind machine".



In the under 17 girls' division the battle was open, the three protagonists being the same as the previous Europeans: Israeli Noy Drihan maintained the championship lead - two firsts and a second place giving a total of 13 points - and Shoval Ravitzky had 19 points, but in third place was last year's winner, the Russian Mariam Sekhposyan with 31 points. A fight for the same podium as last year but with the positions reversed. Bad news for French Lucie Pianazza as she exited from the podium due to an injury in the first race of the day forcing her to withdraw from the competition after a strong start.

The Under 15 and the Plus fleets raced in the late afternoon and numerous protests meant delayed publication of the results. However, the first place of Giorgia Speciale was reinforced with her two bullets in the day's races.



And so the Techno 293 European Championship in Torbole (Italy) finished on Saturday 26 April after a week of racing on Lake Garda. Participants and spectators will all agree this has been an excellent championship and everyone involved in staging this event deserves a huge thank you. Circolo Surf Torbole has once again lived up to its reputation as an amazing venue with a very professional organisation both on and off the water, and warm hospitality.

